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BIG 'WINNERS' ISSUE!

Gallery



**'GIRL NEXT
DOOR'
AMATEUR
PHOTO
CONTEST
WINNER
FOR 1977!**

**GREAT AMERICAN
WINNERS
NOBODY KNOWS**

**HOW TO BE A
WINNER IN BED**

**INTERVIEW:
BURT
REYNOLDS**



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE ABSURD KIND



In motion pictures, books and television (remember "Star Trek?"), science fiction has always claimed millions of serious devotees. But no matter how much early confidence George Lucas may have had in the ultimate popularity of his film, *Star Wars*, he couldn't possibly have guessed the degree of national furor that would be created by his robot-filled fantasy.

Already, Hollywood insiders are predicting an even greater popular and financial success for David Spiel-



berg's forthcoming *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, a U.F.O. tale about visitors from outer space. According to reports, *Close Encounters* may well make Spielberg's earlier hit, *Jaws*, seem minnow-like by comparison.

Given those successes, there seems little doubt that imitative producers will soon be filling both the big screen

and the little tube with all sorts of variations on the science-fiction theme.

All of this inspired *Gallery* to find out what would happen if three very mechanical robots were to suddenly encounter a very down-to-earth earthling. Judging from our observations, the metal trio seemed to know the terrain very well—which leads us to con-





clude that things must be pretty much the same throughout the galactic universe. If so, there's reason to hope for some interesting discoveries as our own space explorations get underway.

We are left with one lingering worry, however. As we human males continue to seek labor-saving mechanical devices to ease our daily burdens, let's not go so far that we begin to assign robots to take over *all* of our activities. We'll want to reserve a few choice ones for ourselves.



